

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 168373
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168373

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (EXDIS VICE NODIS)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TA : PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI WHICH THE EMBASSY SHOULD
DELIVER SOONEST.

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

I READ YOUR MAY 16 LETTER WITH GREAT INTEREST. I APPRE-
CIATE BOTH ITS WARMTH AND ITS CANDOR.

IT WAS VERY KIND OF YOU TO INVITE ME TO VISIT INDIA, AND I
AM HAPPY TO ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION. I INTEND TO LIMIT
CONFIDENTIAL

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TRAVEL ABROAD DURING THE FIRST PART OF MY ADMINISTRATION,
BUT I WILL PLACE INDIA HIGH ON MY AGENDA FOR FOREIGN TRIPS.
IN THE MEANTIME, IS THERE ANY CHANCE THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE
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HAVE MANY ADMIRERS HERE, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU A WARM WEL-
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HOPE YOU CAN COME.

IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE, I WOULD LIKE TO
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DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR LETTER, AND BY WHAT YOU HAVE SAID PUBLICLY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS REGARDING YOUR STRONG AND PRINCIPLED OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CLEARLY, WE SHARE THE FUNDAMENTAL GOAL OF PREVENTING WHAT YOU SO APTLY TERM "NUCLEAR MISUSE." INDIA'S EAGERNESS TO FIND WAYS TO REDUCE THE DANGER OF A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST IS VERY HEARTENING TO ME. AT THE SAME TIME, I FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION THAT INDIA MUST USE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO MEET ITS FUTURE ENERGY AND DEVELOPMENTAL REQUIREMENTS, AND YOUR RESISTANCE TO DISCRIMINATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

ALL NATIONS SHARE A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WHAT THEY CAN IN THIS CRITICAL CAUSE. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON A KEY STEP TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE OF REDUCING THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WAR--A TOTAL NUCLEAR TEST BAN ARRANGEMENT. LIKE THE 1963 TREATY TO END ATMOSPHERIC TESTING, A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN WOULD BE A NON-DISCRIMINATORY MULTILATERAL UNDERSTANDING. IN VIEW OF THE LEADING ROLE THAT INDIA HAS HISTORICALLY PLAYED IN THIS QUESTION, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH US IN REACHING A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN.

ON TARAPUR, I WAS DELIGHTED WITH YOUR FORTHRIGHT AND
CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITIVE RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR GOHEEN, WHOM I HAD PERSONALLY ASKED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU. YOUR PROMPT ASSURANCES TO ME THAT INDIA WOULD MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ON TARAPUR, WOULD NOT USE MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES IN A FURTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, AND WOULD ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON NUCLEAR MATTERS WERE EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING. ON THE BASIS OF YOUR RESPONSE, I AUTHORIZED A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ISSUE THE LONG-PENDING LICENSE FOR ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL. I AM PLEASED THE SHIPMENT IS NOW ON ITS WAY.

THE NEW U.S. NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY, WHICH WILL BE A MAJOR ELEMENT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS, IS DESIGNED NOT ONLY TO REDUCE THE RISK OF POSSIBLE MISUSE OF CIVIL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, BUT ALSO, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, TO ENSURE ITS FULLEST POSSIBLE APPLICATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT. ALONG WITH THE VAST MAJORITY OF NATIONS, THE UNITED STATES SEES THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S SAFEGUARD SYSTEM AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING WORLDWIDE CONFIDENCE THAT NUCLEAR MATERIALS ARE NOT BEING MISUSED. COMPREHENSIVE IAEA SAFEGUARDS DO NOT IN ANY WAY IMPAIR A NATION'S ABILITY TO DEVELOP AND USE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSES; IF YOUR TECHNICAL PEOPLE HAVE ANY DOUBTS ON THIS MATTER, WE WILL BE GLAD TO ADDRESS THEM IN OUR DISCUSSIONS.

TO DEMONSTRATE OUR OWN SUPPORT OF THE IAEA SAFEGUARDS

SYSTEM, THE U.S. IS ITSELF CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE CONTROLS ON ALL AMERICAN CIVILIAN NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS. THIS IS THE IDENTICAL RESPONSIBILITY THAT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES, BUT I RECOGNIZE THAT, PSYCHOLOGICALLY AT LEAST, WE ARE ASKING OTHERS TO DO MORE THAN WE ARE ABLE TO DO OURSELVES. THIS FRANKLY DISTURBS ME, BUT I SEE NO ALTERNATIVE UNTIL WE AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE ABLE TO MOVE ALONG THE ROAD TOWARD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PUT OFF ESTABLISHING AS MANY GLOBAL NORMS AS ARE REALISTICALLY POSSIBLE UNTIL POLITICAL CONDITIONS ARE RIPE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. COMPREHENSIVE IAEA SAFEGUARDS ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT NORMS FOR PREVENTING NUCLEAR MISUSE.

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I HAVE WRITTEN AT LENGTH ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION BECAUSE I FEEL, AS YOU DO, THAT IT IS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT FOR HUMANITY. INDIA HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SET A PRINCIPLED EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW IN THE INTEREST OF OUR SHARED OBJECTIVES. I WOULD HOPE INDIA EXERTS ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE OF MORAL LEADERSHIP IN THIS VITAL AREA.

TURNING BRIEFLY TO ANOTHER SUBJECT, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP IN DEALING WITH AN ASPECT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT IS MUCH IN THE FOREFRONT OF MY THINKING: THE

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APPROVED BY D - DENIS LAMB
S/S-O:TGMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168373

EXDIS - EYES ONLY FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

FOL RPT STATE 168373 ACTION NEW DELHI 19 JUL 77 QUOTE

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2. SIGNED ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED. VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Remarks:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI
TAGS: PPDC, PFOR, OVIP, TECH, IN, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (DESAI, MORARJI)
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/39058762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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